MURDER OR MADNESS

Deadly Explosion in a Front Street Firm's Office.

THE WORK OF A HAND GRENADE

George W. Jewett and Orville D. Jewett Killed, Joseph A. Dean Wounded.

TERRIBLE SCENE OF DESTRUCTION

A Dissolution of Partnership by Death.

ORVILLE'S ARSENAL OF WEAPONS.

The Troubled Undercurrent of a Prosperous Firm.

NO PREMONITION OF THE TRACEDY.

Startling Stories by Those First on the Scene.

Theories of Lunacy, Homicide and Suicide-The Coroner's Examination.

respected firms down town yesterday. George Orville D. Jewett, his nephow, was fatally injured in the same chamber, and died in a lonely ward of the floor, above the store or warehouse of John Charles Jewett and Orville D. Jewett, all of whom were in most excellent health yesterday morning. The place was opened as usual yesterday morning, no Moses Ilse, an employé, saw Orville D. Jewett,

which he did take off before the calamity. The cierks, Messra, W. Silleck, Charles Taintor, Charles Pollock d Arthur Dean, Joseph A. Dean's son, arred in due time and sat down to busiss. After them and before ten o'clock me the other members of the firm, who or partner's office, Mr. Charles Jewett was in the again he returned and took some papers out of his desk in the front office; but he wore bis overcoat all the time. The two seniors oir business in the rear office. Mr. Dean sat at lesk, which laced the open door leading to the is thought that they had had some convers tion concerning the proposed sale of Orville's share in the firm, which was to have been perfected at sleven A. M. yesterday. Mr. Dean had agreed. Judge Lathrop said, to give Orville \$200,000 for his interest, bring the necessary papers for the consummation of the transaction before noon. About ten o'clock Charles Jewett came into the private office and communicated the result of his perusal of the morning's mail to them and remained with the two seniors a short time. The cierks at their desks in the middle office did not bear anything unusual within. Two of them writing at his deak whenever they raised their heads. They saw Charles come out, and J. W. Silleck, the cashier, said that George W. accompanied him to the front room for a few moments, and there they parted never to meet again in life. Charles went out, and rear office, where, according to Judge Lathrop, Mr. Dean's lather-in-law, Orville D. had already preceded

A few moments after George W. Jewett returned to the office, and while the clerks' and cashier's eyes were bent upon their ledgers, a frightful explosion was heard in the rear office and the place was filled with smoke. Panic stricken, the clerks leaped from their desks, and Mr. Silleck saw Mr. Dean, Sr., begrimed and dazed, stagger across the middle office from the door of the rear to the head of the stairway. Mr. Silleck sprang to his assistance and helped him down to the warehouse in the little office of which he was placed upon a lounge and Dr. Farrington, of the Astor House, was sent for. The other clerks did not know which way to turn for the moment. In fact, everybody was too surprised and upset to be useful. The firemen of Engine No. 32, who heard the explosion and saw the volume of smoke burst from the office window, rushed across the way from their house, and two of them, Assistant Foreman Cook and Henry Murray, dashed up stairs to the apartment. The latter, just as he crossed the threshold of the rear office, heard another explosion, like the report in, followed by Officer O'Donnell, of the First precinct, who came from the Fulton ferry house, he saw in that part of the room near Mr. Dean's desk and right before the fireplace. He seized that nearest to him and dragged him out into the middle office. As he moved the body left a trail of blood a foot wide upon the floor trod so firmly five minutes THE DEAD MERCHANT.

"Oh! this man is dead," said Murray, as he glanced the floor. This was George W. Jewett, He expired almost immediately, and was carried into the front office looking upon Front street and was laid upon his back, his hands crossed upon his breast and tied together with a pocket handkerchief, his shirt and undershirt were torn his chest protector was pulled over his face and he was left to await the arrival of the Coroner on his back beneath the window and between the two desks formerly used by the junior partners of the firm. Meanwhile the firemen, now sided by the potice officers, O'Dopuell and Suilivan, were back in the rear office trying to help Orville D. Jewett, who was also stretched upon the floor near to the spot on which George, his uncle, had been tound. The smoke had cleared off sufficiently to permit the men to distinguish objects upon the floor and around the room. They found a large navy revolver near him, also a small sized Sharp's lour-

exploded cap was on the nipple beneath the hammer. The little histol was empty, and the handle of the knife was stained with blood. Orville D. Jewett was borne down stairs, and, the ambulance having arrived,

POPULAR EXCITEMENT.

Captain Petty arrived with a squad of police in good Captain Petty arrived with a squad of police in good season, and just in time to prevent the crowd from getting into the office and taking absolute possession of it. Nearly everybody down town had heard of the terrible affair ten minutes after it occurred, and it was almost impossible to keep the people out of the building. Captain Petty stationed his officers at the doors and had all the lower windows closed. No one was admitted except the immediate friends of the family and the reporters. Those who stood in the streets gazed at the shattered windows of the office and draw upon their imagination to fill out the dreadful picture seen by those within. Whispers of murder and suicide seemed to come through the chinks of the doors. Suspicions of four play and a hidden tragedy were vaguely hinted from lip to lip. Something predeterminedly wrong had transpired in

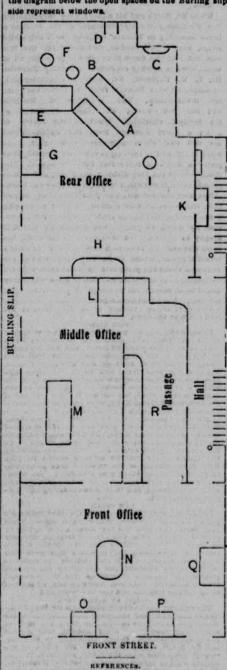
of some kind between the injured parties. In short nobody could be found who believed that the explosion

was purely accidental.

AFTER THE EXPLOSION.

Fifteen minutes after the explosion Dr. Farrington, of the Aster House, was in attendance upon Mr. Dean, and Mesers Carl & Strong, of Burling slip, druggists, sent over a large supply of lint and styptics, which were greatly needed and of inestimable value Charles Jewett sent Charles Taintor down to of the police and other people was turned to the scene of the tragedy. The carpet was covered with a thick coating of soet, which had evidently been chaken from the chimney of the open fireplace by the concussion, been dropped. Others flew to the right, tearing through the furniture, smashing portions of the men were found and from the slight state-ment made by Mr. Dean to his father-in-law, Judge their desks. One fragment of the missile struck Mr. arm; another tore away a portion of the deak and half the key which was in the lock of with first impulse of the shock and pain, sprang to his

JUNELL DOENE OF THE DISASTER. The offices, as shown in the diagram, are lo-cated on the second floor, which is reached clorks, and the rear, 18 by 14, occupied by the seniors. They were neatly furnished, and in the centre or middle office there were double desks, furnishing acthe diagram below the open spaces on the Burling slip side represent windows.



A-Where George W. Jewett and Orville D. Jewett were und.

B—Where hand grenade struck the floor.

C—Freeplace:

D—Where fragment of grenade perforated the wooden

Alescoting.

E. Joseph A. Dean's desk.

F. Dean's chair.

G. mail table.

H. George W. Jewell's desk.

I. Broken chair. Hroken chair

K-safe, door only visible.

L-Deak for clerk.

M-Cashier's desaw.

N-A'her: George W. Jewett died.

O-Charles H. Jowett's desa.

P-tryville D. Jewett's desa.

R-tlounter.

WHAT ASSISTANT FOREMAN COOK SAW.

The noise of the explosion was heard for blocks. The members of Engine No. 32, whose house is in povolver near frim, also a small sized Sharp's four.

Buring sip, almost opposite the store of the Messra.

Buring sip, almost opposite the store of the Messra.

Jewett, were the first to respond. Assistant Foreman of the navy revolver had been discharged and a newly Cook said that they had just received an slarm to pro-

chants and officers, the Bremen left Orville D. Jewett in their hands.

THE DEADLY WEAPONS.

The Bremen then made another visit to the back office, Officer O'Donnell accompanying them. The latter in his first visit to the room found a snarpe's four-barrelled, ivory handled revolver, which he placed in his pocket. Now this weapon was supplemented by another, a terrible looking eight-inch six-barrelled Coit's may revolver. It was picked up by Cooke and laid on the small table adjoining Mr. Dean's desk. Afterward it was turned over to the police and taken to the station house. One of the chambers had been discharged and the barrel was still warm. There was an exploited cap on the tube; the other chambers were loaded. Near the large pistol there was also found a large clasp dirk knife. In every section of the room Cooke saw fragments of a shell, subsequently ascertained to be a hand grenade. The explosion had demolished everything around.

FIREMAN MURRAY'S STATEMENT.

I was in the engine house at Burling slip, and an alarm had just been received to go to a fire in Nassau street when we heard a tremendous explosion immediately across the way. We saw the windows of a room on the second floor of the house opposite snattered to pieces, and a dense volume of smoke came pouring one. At first we thought that a fire had broken out, and I dashed across the street with Assistant Foreman Cook and ran up the stairs as fast as I could. I saw no one on the stairs in passing up, though my mind was so full with the thought of the fire that I had no eyes for anything I might meet on the way to the room, and I might have pussed a man on the stairs without noticing him.

in a de the interest in the electer. Took with that this to be a terrible murder," said the officer.

MR. Joseph Bensel, a geutleman in the storage business on the corner of Water street and Burling slip, like all in the neighborhood, heard the dealening report, and immediately rain to the scena. When he entered the indicately rain to the scena. When he entered the indicately rain to the scena. When he entered the indicately rain to the scena. When he entered the indicately rain to the scena. When he entered the indicately rain to the scena. When he entered the indicate of the scena. When he entered the indicate of the scena was the cashier's deak in the middle office, where he was then lying. Everything was in confusion, and the amoke and soot still filled the air, making it difficult to breathe freely. The prostrate form of Orville D. Jeweth first arrested Mr. Bensel's attention. His blackened face and terrible groans were sufficient to unsettle the stoutest nerve. Running to the washstand, Mr. Bensel proprocured washer to wash his face. This he did with the utmost alacrity, the wounded man looking very thankful for the stranger's kind attention. Orville's face being cleaned and bathed, Mr. Bensel next proceeded to wash his nands. Just at this instant it was discovered that the left side of the wounded man's vest was on fire. It was instantly extinguished. In picking up Orville's arms it was found that the left was badly shattered and torn at the wrist, with the thumb and foreinger althost disjointed. Mr. Bensel, thinking that Orville could speak without difficulty, asked him regarding his injuries.

Onvillar (placing his right hand over his heart)—I have awful pain here; am hurt to my heart.

Bensel, thinking that Orville was about to ask Orville something cise about the tragedy several policemen entered the door, when, seeing time. Jewett asked where they were going to take me?" said he, "To Captain Petty's?"

"No," answered an officer; "to the hospital."

But hinter mounds a feeling the section of taking h

Captain Fetty's":
"No," answered an officer; "to the hospital."
But little thought was given to this question of taking him away until the beher that the mystery was a terrible nurder had become almost a certainty, when it was irrequently repeated and unpleasantly commented them.

it was irequently repeated and unpleasantly commented upon.

"Dat he lear, even in his terrible wounded state, that they were going to take him to the station house" asked one.

"Did the appearance of the officers produce such a shock that it brought the lear of punishment for some crime to his mind?" and another.

These and other like ideas were repeatedly given utterance to, making the occurrence look all the more terrible. The doctor in charge of the ambulance arriving at this stage, Orville D. Jewett was removed to the Chamber Street Hospital where he subsequently died. Just before his removal charles Campbell, one of the porters, came into the office, and, stooping over the prostrate man, he was recognized by the latter.
"Haven't I been a good triend of yours, Charley?" asked Orville.

the Chamber Street Hospital where he asbeequeally died. Just bolors his removal charles Campbell, one of the porters, came into the office, and stooping over the prostrate man, he was recognized by the sator.

"Haven't I been a good frend of yours, Charley?" asked Ovrille,

"Yee, you have," answered Charley.

John J. Sallivan, of the Eastern Steamboat Squad, said to the reporter:—"I was standing un pier 20, East River, when I heard an explosion, and I ran to the spot where the sound seemed to come from shard as I could. I round Office of stars. Hotel has the office of stars, and is say that his vest and the inner inning of his coat were charred, and delonine. He lay on the list of the from an activity sal could by rubbing together and squeezing the burning citching.

I then unbuckled a best which was frawn tight round his wast, and which had a pistol honster attached to it. The holster was empty when took off the best. I located over the body, raised the head and healt the Sing main is a casy a postition as I could consciously and did not seem at the own maning an consciously and did not seem at the own maning and consciously and did not seem the last. How here Mr. George W. Javest was lying con his back, Here Forenan Cook came to me sud said that had laid it on a desk in the back office. I immediately went into the office and took chiege of the pistol which I cound a bistol on the floor and had laid it on a desk in the back office. I mimediately went into the office and took chiege of the pistol which I cound a bistol on the floor and had laid it on a desk in the back office. I mimediately went into the office and took chiege of the pistol which I cound a bistol on the floor and had laid it on a desk in the back office. I mimediately went into the office and took chiege of the pistol with the exposion. He was lying death of the pistol with the exposion. He was lying the provided the pisto

Were concerned.

AT MR. DEAN'S HOUSE.

When the reporter called at the house of Mr. Joseph

Dean, No. 14 Waveflay places, he tound the iront
acor garded by a poole-stured Certor's in the shape
of a clerk from Mr. Jowett's store. He said that he
had all the information for the gentlemen of the preas
that the family of the wounded man would permit to
be made public. His statement was as follows:—

"We didn't know much about it," said he, speaking
for himself and his brother clerks. "The truth is that
there has been a little trouble in the firm lately. One
of the firm has shown some symptoms of insanity.
That one is Mr. Orvilf D. Jewett, who is now lying
dangerously wounded at the Chambers Street Hospital.
We think that he caused the explosion. How it occurred or what was done we don't know. I was in another part of the store at the time. A bombshell exploded in the office and two revolvers
and a dirk kuife were found there. The relations
between the different members of the firm have
been entirely peaceable. Mr. Dean has received
two flesh wounds, one in the arm and another in the
leg. A ploce of the exploided shall has been extracted

between the different members of the firm have been entirely peaceable. Mr. Dean has received two flesh wounds, one in the arm and another in the leg. A ploce of the exploid shed has been extracted from Mr. Dean's thigh. The time of the occurrence was about ten o'clock. Mr. George W. Jewett, Mr. O. D. Jewett and Mr. Joseph A. Dean came down to the office about hall-past nine. They were in the back office sitting down having some consultation. I suppose they were sitting down, but of course don't know anything about that. I only lafer it because they had been there some time before the explosion occurred. Mr. George W. Jewett was killed outright and Mr. O. It. Jewett was dangerously wounded, but we hope that Mr. Dean will be well soon."

THE CORONER'S EXAMINATION.

Coroner Ellinger was sent for, and arrived at the scene of the explosion at three o'clock. He immediately began an examination into the facts connected with the explosion and the probable cause of the tragedy. A private inquiry was made of Mr. Charles H. Jewett and other relatives of the victims as to the probable cause of the latal controversy, which, it was presumed, had led to the explosion of the deadly shell in the office. No satisfactory conclusion was arrived at, and the exmination of the casher of the firm and other employes who were in the main office at the time of the explosion threw little light upon the cause of the irouble. It was stated to the reporter that Mr. Orville Jewett had entered the office as they entered. No loud or angry taking was heard in the main office, and a moment later Mr. George Jewett entered it for the last time, do-sing the door behind him. Two or three minutes afterward the shell was exploded, blowing open the door leading to the main office, and a moment later Mr. George Jewett entered it for the last time, do-sing the door behind him. Two or three minutes afterward the shell was exploded, blowing open the door leading to the main office, and a moment later Mr. George Jewett entered it for the last time, do-sing

THE CORONER'S JURY.

The following gentlemen were summoned and sworn in by the Coroner to constitute a jury, which will proceed as soon as practicable to near evidence in the case:

John Hysiop, No. 113 East Eighty-third street.

Benjamin Collins, No. 118 East Sixteenth street.

Edwin Longiellow, No. 23 South street.

Adam C. Martin, No. 305 East Tarty-fourth street.

Joseph C. Canning, No. 83 Cedar street.

Robert G. Hardie, Jr., No. 52 West Thirty-eighth street.

not get mad or angry and speak bits mind like a man, the would broud over his imaginary wrongs and let them worry him. He has been regarded for a long time as an inactive member of the firm and it was thought desirable to buy out his interest, and to this end many consultations have been had iron time to time. Latterly Orville went to Mr. Dean, and, calling him his best iriend, said he would sell to him for \$20,000. Mr. Dean agreed to this proposition, and the allair was to have been wound up on Thursday by Orville's attorney, Mr. Sutherland, but, as you are aware, the explosion intervened to provent the fulliment of this design. Orville has been interested in the firm since 1850, but he has not been actively engaged for a long time. It is wite's bad health obliged him to take her to Bernuda hat winter and inrough the South. She has been living in Orange, N. J., lately. With regard to the character of George W. Jewett Judge Lathrop said that he had rarely met with one more amable, and the same might be said of Mr. Dean, writing while Orville and Geo. W. Jewett were in the room—taking, it might be, but certainly very caimly—when the explosion occurred; and he (Mr. Dean), with the impulse of lear upon him, related to the middle office, thence to the stairway, where somebody helped him to the lower floor, and no becought them for God's sake to hasten to George W. Jewett Secsion.

STATEMENT OF MR. ONVILLE'S COUNSEL.

Mr. J. N. Sutherland, the Counsel of Mr. Orville Jewett & Sons, for floal approval, on the very morning of the explosion. Mr. Orville Jewett had been somewhat dissatisfied with the manner in which the business of the firm was conducted, and it was agreed that he should withdraw from his partnership at the dissociation would have taken place during the present month and articles of withdrawal were to have been signed by Mr. Orville Jewett yexterday. These articles were drawn up in a manner in which the business of the firm was conducted, and it was agreed that he should withdraw from his partnership at

OBITUARY.

MAJOR CHARLES W. BARKER.

hours of eight and nine o'clock in the forenoon when He expired when the cars were near Port Byron Mr. Barker was in the enjoyment of his usual excellent person at the mart and conducted one of the largest horse auction sales of the season. Major Barker had been engaged in business in this city during a period of twelve years. He was about fifty-four years of age at the onerous duties. He possessed a clear and sonorou voice, was most rapid and emphatic in his delivery

MGR. GUERIN, BISHOP OF LANGRES. The Paris journals of the 22d of March announce the of Mgr. Guérin, Bishop of Langres, at the moment he was putting on his robes to officiate at divine service. The deceased prelate, born in 1792, was Vicar General of Besancon when, in 1851, he was nominated to the see left vacant by the translation of Mgr. Parlsis to Arras.

MME. ERNEST ANDRE.

The decease in l'aris of Mme, Ernest André, of the former Deputy of the Gard, is annous the European mail. For a number of years their re Fauburg Poissonnière drew together the chief members in the elegant and aristocratic circles of the Impermits party. She was the daughter of General Count de Gudin, commander of one of the divisions of the Grand Army of France, who was killed at the battle of the Moskows.

BENJAMIN JUMAN. Benjamin Juman, representative of the Ohio Legis-lature from Sandusky county, Ohio, died of consump-tion at his home, near Fremont. Ohio, yesterday

THE NEW ROCHELLE COACH.

In a few weeks the coaching season will reopen, and the inhabitants of Fifth avenue will be enlivened at the breakfast table by the cheering sound of the horn as the "Tally Ho." under the skilful guidance of Colonel Delancey Kane, dashes by on its daily trip to New with the Pelham coach last year will doubtless be repeated this season, as although the books were only repeated this season, as although the books were only opened yesterday nearly every day up to the loth of May has already been secured. New Yorkers have already loarned to appreciate the health-giving qualities of the fresh country air, and the belies of the past season, paic and worn from their balls and dinners, will do well to recuperate through such a pleasant medium. The "Tally Ho" commences its daily trips to New Rochelle and return on the 1st of May. Mr. Iselin has secured the entire coach for the first day and Mr. U. G. Francklyn has taken it for the 2d of May. On the 26th of May the coach will not make the trip to New Rochelle, as on that occasion the Coaching Club will make their annual parade. The following is a time table of the trip:—

Fare, Leaving. Time. Fare, Leaving. Time.
Now York.... 10:90
Will Arrive at 50c.—Hartem..... 10:33
50c.—*Mott Haven. 10:35 (Wallack Hotel)
150.—*Corner. 10:58
\$1 00—*Union Port. 11:08 (Hotel.)
1 00—Westchester.. 11:15 (Ozeo Hotel)
1 50—*Pelham Bidge. 11:30 (Arcularius & Capt. Delany Hotels.)
1 75—Bartow....... 11:36 (Hotel.)
Bolton Priory. 11:46 (Hotel.)
2 00—Nept. House
Cor...... 11:50 (Nept. House.)
2 00—Huguenot H. 12:00 (N. Rochelle, *Change horses. TIME TABLE AND PARKS.

PROPER CARE OF THE INSANE.

There was a meeting held last night in the Second Presbyterian Church, on Clinton street, Brooklyn, by a number of ladies and gentlemen interested in treatment of insane women. Their object is to have an asylum established in Brooklyn where insane women, by paying \$5 or \$6 weekly, can be provided with good and comfortable rooms, and receive proper food and medical treatment. Rev. Dr. Storre presided, and upon calling the meeting to order stated that the laties bad aircady, under the laws of the State, formed themselves into an organization and were ready, with the assistance of several refliable business men, to accompilable the task which they had undertaken. The amount collected so far was \$2,700. About \$39,000 would be necessary to establish the asylum, and he thought that subscriptions of \$30 shares each could be raised and the full amount secured in this way. Br. Norris, of the Charity Commissioners, immediately took two shares. Shares to the amount of \$1,200 were then taken by several other persons, after which the meeting adjourned.

BROOKLYN'S DEATH BATE.

During the past week there were 199 deaths in Brooklyn, against 221 for the week previous